



Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

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September 06, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Chief Operations Officer

**ACCEPT THE DONATION OF TWO PIECES OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
FROM THE RANCHO LOS AMIGOS FOUNDATION
TO RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4)
(3 VOTES)**

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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

*To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective
health care to Los Angeles County
residents through direct services at
DHS facilities and through
collaboration with community and
university partners.*

SUBJECT

Request approval to accept the donation of two pieces of medical equipment from the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLANRC). The medical equipment is a speech generating device and eye gaze interaction device and both pieces are manufactured by Tobii DynaVox.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Accept the equipment donations of a speech generating device valued at \$8,295 and an eye gaze interaction device (eye gaze device) valued at \$6,900 for a total value of \$15,195 from the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation for patient care use by the Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology (CART) at RLANRC.
2. Instruct the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors to prepare and send a letter of appreciation (Attachment I) to the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation for their generous donation.



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PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In accordance with County policy, donations in excess of \$10,000 require acceptance by the Board.

Approval of the first recommendation will allow receipt of the medical equipment donation from the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation for patient care use by CART at RLANRC. The specific pieces of donated medical equipment are a speech generating device and an eye gaze device manufactured by Tobii DynaVox, a Swedish high-technology company that develops and sells assistive devices. The equipment will be used with either pediatric or adult patients who have ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, brain disease, cerebral palsy, spinal cord or traumatic brain injury and who have lost the ability to speak.

The speech generating device, also referred to as a voice-output communication aid, is an electronic device that allows the patient to select messages to be spoken aloud, thereby assisting patients who are unable to use natural speech to meet the majority of their communication needs. Speech generating device technology ranges from simple to complex. Dedicated devices are intended for communication purposes only, while this speech generating device is integrated into a computer system.

Eye tracking technology puts patients in control of assistive communication devices so they control the eye gaze device by using their eyes as they naturally would. A device or computer equipped with an eye tracker knows what a patient is looking at. This makes it possible for patients to interact with a speech generating device using their eyes and communicating their needs.

About twelve (12) patients per month will be evaluated using this equipment by staff in the CART program. The mission of the CART program is to assist children and adults with physical disabilities to lead more independent lives through the use of assistive technology. Assistive technology is often the tool which enables individuals with disabilities to participate more fully in everyday activities at home, school and work. CART staff is an interdisciplinary team consisting of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and a technology specialist who offer a full range of services including evaluation, recommendation, equipment setup, training, custom equipment modification and follow-up.

Approval of the second recommendation will authorize the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors to send a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Rancho Los Amigos Foundation.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no net County cost associated with the acceptance of this equipment. The equipment is expected to perform reliably and without any issues except for normal battery replacement for five to seven years before it becomes outmoded. Battery expenses are within normal operating expenses at RLANRC.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 2.4.2 of the County Fiscal Manual authorizes County departments to accept donations in excess of \$10,000 with Board approval.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will help support and maintain the quality of health care delivered at RLANRC by enhancing RLANRC's ability to evaluate and provide direct patient care and rehabilitative services to its patients who are unable to speak and can only access a speech generating device through eye movement.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director



Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

MHK:rf.jl

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors

September 6, 2016

Deborah R. Arroyo, Executive Director
Rancho Los Amigos Foundation
P.O. Box 2370
Downey, CA 90242

Dear Ms. Arroyo:

At its meeting held August 16, 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors accepted with thanks and appreciation your generous donations of two pieces of medical equipment, specifically a speech generating device valued at \$8,295 and an eye gaze interaction device valued at \$6,900 for a total value of \$15,195. The medical equipment is manufactured by Tobii DynaVox and will be used by the Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLANRC) with either pediatric or adult patients who have ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, brain disease, cerebral palsy, spinal cord or traumatic brain injury and who have lost the ability to speak.

The equipment will help support and maintain the quality of health care delivered at RLANRC by enhancing RLANRC's ability to evaluate and provide direct patient care and rehabilitative services to its patients who are unable to speak and can only access a speech generating device through eye movement.

The Board members have requested that I express their appreciation to you for these generous donations.

Very truly yours,

Lori Glasgow
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

LG:rf